

Apply to be a Governance & Society Professional Fellow

Are you an up-and-coming professional engaged in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship? Gain hands-on experience and practical skills through a short-term fellowship in the United States in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023!

**In person travel contingent upon favorable travel conditions.*

Eligibility

To apply, you must be:

- 25-35 years old
- A citizen and current resident of either: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, or Ukraine
- Speak fluent English
- Have at least two years relevant work experience and be currently employed
- Have demonstrated leadership and collaborative skills



“How will the program benefit me?”

Each finalist of the program will:

- Be matched with a full-time fellowship placement host in a U.S. organization dealing with issues relating to work in your home country. Fellows will gain first-hand knowledge about US organizations and institutions and build networks and relationships with US counterparts.
- Participate in a fully-funded program with comprehensive on program support. Travel and living arrangements will be covered as well as emergency health insurance, and visa fees on program.
- Become part of the prestigious PFP Alumni network. Alumni will gain access to tremendous resources and an international network of like-minded professionals spanning the globe.

About the Program

The shared vision of Professional Fellows in the **Governance and Society** cohort is to expand legislative access and civic participation in policy formulation for all members of the community.

“Who is a PFP Governance and Society Fellow?”

Fellows come from a variety of professional backgrounds including but not limited to:

- Public and Government offices - Civil servants who are active in policy formulation, implementation and promotion of civic initiatives, public administration and local governance at both the local and national level
- NGOs – including those working to promote civic engagement and legal access for marginalized populations in effort to provide better access to legal services



Applications are open until

March 28, 2022

For more information, visit

www.professionalfellows.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Professional Fellows Program? The Professional Fellows Program (PFP) is sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs', Global Leaders Division. The Professional Fellows Program brings emerging leaders in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship to the United States for intensive fellowships designed to broaden their professional expertise. Participants spend approximately one month in the United States, during which they receive hands-on exposure to national legislative offices, state legislatures, local government offices, businesses, and non-profit organizations through carefully designed full-time fellowships.

Will COVID-19 impact my participation in the program? Please note, the in-person, U.S.-based Fellowship is contingent upon favorable travel conditions. In the event there are travel restrictions or others factors that could adversely impact the health, safety, and welfare of program participants and hosts, PFP will pivot the in-person, U.S.-based exchange to virtual programming.

Do I need to pay for the program? What are the costs? If you are selected as a finalist, American Councils and the Department of State will cover all costs associated with your international travel, visa, and basic living costs in the US. There are no required costs to Fellows.

How are Fellows selected? Fellows are selected through a competitive nationwide search that involves a merit-based selection process. This includes an extensive written application and in-person interview. The selection of finalists is determined in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy.

Am I eligible to apply? Please see eligibility requirements on page one of this flier and on the application at <https://ais.americancouncils.org/pfp>. These are firm requirements and no exceptions will be made.

How do I apply? Apply online at www.ais.americancouncils.org/pfp

Where will I live? PFP Fellows are housed in U.S. host families, university housing, extended stay hotels, or some combination of these options. At a minimum, all Fellows will be provided a home hospitality experience such as dinner with an American family, a cultural excursion, a short-term homestay, or other relevant activity to encourage cultural exchange.

Where will I work? American Councils will match Fellows with placement organizations in the US. While Fellows may express a preference early in the process for a particular type of office, please note that American Councils has final say over all sites and Fellows may not choose their own placement. Not every type of office will have an exact match in the United States, so fellows will need to keep an open mind about learning how US offices work around different issues.

How would I get a US visa? If you are selected for the program American Councils will assist you in applying for a J-1 visa. All visa fees will be covered through the program as well as travel to the visa interview. However, the granting of a US J-1 visa is a requirement for the program, and if you are rejected for a visa by the Consular section at the embassy you will not be eligible to participate. American Councils can assist fellows in the application process, but holds no sway over visa granting decisions made by the Embassy.

What if I am currently working or studying abroad? Am I eligible? No. All Fellows must be current residents and citizens of the country cohort for which they are applying.

What will I do at my worksite? PFP experiences are often very fellow-driven. This means that the fellows who are most successful often think about their goals and objectives for the program in advance of their arrival and are able to share them with their future worksites along with information about the fellows' background and experiences at home. While at your US worksite you will likely engage in a wide range of activities, which can include shadowing important meetings, conducting research, presenting on relevant topics, participating in office events, and many other activities.